

**REMARKS**

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowability of claim 3 if rewritten in independent form. The Examiner will note that claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form and is, therefore, allowable.

Claim 1 has been amended to insert the phrase "which is enveloped in a cast light metal alloy member". Support for this amendment will be found at page 4, lines 2-6, and lines 17-18 of the original specification, for example. In addition, new claims 7-9 have been inserted which correspond to original claims 4-6 but including a step of enveloping the porous metal structure body in a cast light metal alloy member. Support for these claims will be found in the first full paragraph on page 11 of the original specification.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Shikata et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The instant invention was made in order to solve the problem that a porous metal molded body (a sintered porous metal body) which has a generally low strength and is difficult to be handled may undergo exfoliation and cracking, and a desired shape may not be obtained, for example, when being enveloped in a cast light metal alloy member. The instant invention, therefore, provides a lightweight and high-strength porous metal structure body which is suitable for use in reinforcing a light metal alloy member made of an aluminum alloy, for instance. It is superior in handling performance and is superior in

impregnability to a light metal alloy such as an aluminum alloy. Still further, the thermal expansion coefficient is easily adjusted to be close to those of iron-based metal (see page 5, lines 18-26, of the instant specification).

Shikata et al. disclose a sintered slide bearing of a tubular shape having a porosity of 20% and a thickness of 3 mm (example 1) and states, "the density ratio is 75 to 80%" (porosity of 25-20%) at column 3, lines 58-59. However, the bearing of the tubular shape described by Shikata et al. is completely different in use from the porous metal structure body of the instant invention. Moreover, Shikata et al. completely failed to disclose enveloping the sintered body in the cast light metal alloy member, that is, to disclose the use of the instant invention. The reference further completely fails to disclose a lightweight and high-strength porous metal structure body which is superior in handling performance and superior in impregnability. Still further, the reference completely fails to disclose forming the sintered body having a porosity of more than 50% by volume in the cavity in order to obtain such a porous metal structure metal body.

Shikata et al. teach a method of producing a powdered metal article having a permeability with liquid such as lubricating oil and further teaches, as one example, a bearing having a permeable cellular or honeycomb space within the bearing walls which is greater in porosity than the bearing walls.

A liquid permeable powder article disclosed by the reference, however, does not aim to be used while being enveloped in the cast light metal alloy member. The reference merely discloses working as a reservoir of a lubricating oil in the bearing, for example. Accordingly, Shikata et al. failed to disclose reinforcing a light metal alloy member by enveloping the porous metal sintered body in a light metal alloy member such as a bearing portion of an internal combustion engine made of an aluminum alloy. The Examiner is, therefore, respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Shikata et al. in view of Causley. The Examiner contended that Shikata et al. disclose everything claimed in claim 2 but does not teach a sintered body having more than 50% by volume porosity formed in the cavity. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The comments regarding Shikata et al. discussed above apply equally here. Causley does not cure the defects in the Shikata et al. reference and this rejection, therefore, should be withdrawn.

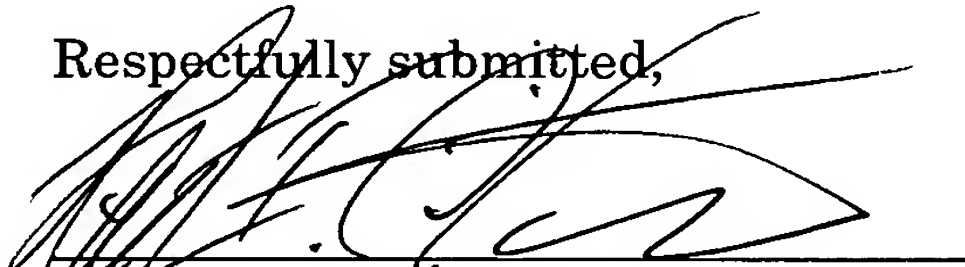
Since all the claims are clearly in condition for allowance and distinguish over the prior art of record, whether taken singly or in combination, an early Notice of Allowance is in order and the same is most earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #029383.52656US).

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Respectfully submitted,



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